

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, US, MP

SUBJECT: MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN FAA TITLE XII ASSISTANCE  
PROJECT (THE FAMINE PREVENTION PROGRAM)

1. OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
HAS QUERIED EMBASSY REGARDING WHAT PROGRAMS WE HAVE FOR MAURITIUS  
UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FREING ASSISTANCE ACT. FURTHER DISCUSSION  
DISCLOSED THAT THIS INQUIRY WAS STIMULATED BY A JANUARY 19 CABLE  
SENT BY AMBASSADOR BALANCY TO MAURITIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY,  
TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW:

2. BEGIN TEXT. UNDER AN AMENDMENT BROUGHT TO THE U.S. FOREIGN  
ASSISTANCE ACT IN 1976, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS NOW AVAILABLE  
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO PARTICIAPTE IN WHAT IS KNOWN  
AS "THE FAMINE PREVENTION PROGRAM." BASICALLY THE PROGRAM PROVIDES  
FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND JOINT COOPERATION IN  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS IN REACHING SELF-SUFFICIENCY  
IN THE PRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS.

AS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE LEAFLETS ENCLOSED WITH  
THE LETTER, THE PROGRAM IS MANAGED BY THE UNITED STATES AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATINAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN  
INDEPENDENT BOARD APPOINTED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS UNDER THE  
NAME OF "THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT" (BIFAD). IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM IS  
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DUE TO START THIS YEAR, AS ANNOUNCED AT A CONGRESSIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE LATE SENATOR HUMPHREY AND  
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL FINDLEY WHO WERE THE ORIGINAL SPONSORS  
OF THE NEW LEGISLATION. THE SYMPOSIUM, WHICH I ATTENDED,  
WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 19. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT  
TO NOTE THAT, CONTRARY TO OTHER PROGRAMMES OF BILATERAL AID  
UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, THE NEW PROGRAM ON FAMINE

PREVENTION IS UNRESTRICTED. WHICH MEANS THAT IN THE CASE OF MAURITIUS WHICH IS AT PRESENT INELIGIBLE FOR BILATERAL AID IN THE TERMS AND APPLICATION OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, THE NEW PROGRAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

IN A LETTER RECEIVED TODAY FROM REPRESENTATIVE FINDLEY, A COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS HAS IN FACT BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMINE PREVENTION PROGRAM. I HAVE OF COURSE INDICATED OUR INTEREST SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS WITH A.I.D. FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROJECT. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE FIRST STEP IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE FOR OUR GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN PORT LOUIS A PROJECT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM.

FROM MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS SAID AT THE SYMPOSIUM AND FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH A.I.D. OFFICIALS, I TAKE IT THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE YOUNG FARMERS GROUP, THE FARM COOPERATIVES, THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE IRRIGATION PROJECT IN OUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN COULD ALL FALL IN THE CATEGORIES OF FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECTS COVERED BY THE FAMINE PREVENTION PROGRAM AND ELIGIBLE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE.  
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YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. END TEXT.

3. LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY TO AMBASSADOR BALANCY STATED, INTER ALIA, QUOTE ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO KNOW IF YOUR COUNTRY INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMS NOW BEING FORMULATED UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. WHILE FORMAL APPLICATION SHOULD BE FILED WITH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AS A CO-AUTHOR OF TITLE XII I WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT CARE TO SHARE.

IT IS MY FERVENT WISH TO KEEP MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE'S ASPIRATIONS ALIVE. I HOPE YOUR COUNTRY WILL SEE FIT TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN TRANSLATING OUR MUTUAL DESIRES FOR ADEQUATE NUTRITION FOR ALL PEOPLE INTO REALITY. END QUOTE.

4. WHILE CONGRESSMAN'S LETTER READS LIKE A FORM LETTER SENT TO ALL FOREIGN EMBASSY PARTICIPANTS IN DECEMBER 19 CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ON FAMINE PREVENTION AT WHICH LATE SENATOR HUMPHREY SPOKE, AMBASSADOR BALANCY HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN IT AS AN "INVITATION" TO PARTICIPATE IN TITLE XII PROGRAM.

5. FACT WE POSSESS COPIES OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE, GIVEN TO US BY MINISTRY PLANNING, SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING PROBLEM WITH AMBASSADOR BALANCY.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO MINISTRY PLANNING'S QUERY, SPECIFICALLY AS TO MAURITIUS' ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE XII AND PROCEDURE GOM SHOULD FOLLOW IN APPLYING FOR SAME.  
KEELEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FAMINE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
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